



COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Tuberculosis Officer,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

AND

Public Analyst,

For the Year 1926.



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County Borough of Smethwick.

COMMITTEES, 1925-26.

Health Committee.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. SANDS, J.P.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P. | COUNCILLOR R. A. BAKER. |
| ALDERMAN A. MORRIS. | COUNCILLOR E. T. BROWN. |
| COUNCILLOR E. ADAMS, J.P. | COUNCILLOR W. Y. DAVIDSON, |
| COUNCILLOR F. W. PERRY. | M.B., Ch.B. |

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The Members of the Health Committee together with the following Co-opted Members:—

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| MRS. E. T. BROWN. | MRS. E. GRIFFITHS. |
| MRS. F. CHAPMAN. | MRS. C. W. JONES. |
| MRS. W. HADGKISS. | |

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee.

Chairman : ALDERMAN T. W. EVANS, J.P.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P. | COUNCILLOR W. Y. DAVIDSON, |
| ALDERMAN A. MORRIS. | M.B., Ch.B. |
| COUNCILLOR E. T. BROWN. | COUN. MRS. E. M. SANDS, J.P. |
| COUNCILLOR S. W. B. STEPHEN, J.P. | |

Oldbury Representatives :

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| COUNCILLOR W. T. DAVIES, J.P. | COUNCILLOR H. H. ROBBINS. |
| COUNCILLOR W. B. HAYES, J.P. | COUNCILLOR A. C. WATSON. |

Smethwick Representatives on the South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital Board.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ALDERMAN G. F. BETTS, J.P. | ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P. |
| ALDERMAN T. W. EVANS, J.P. | |

Health Department Staff.

Medical Officer of Health, Tuberculosis Officer, School Medical Officer, and Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital :

J. BELL FERGUSON, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Manchester).
(To October 31st).

Assistant Medical Officers :

RICHARD SANDILANDS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

(Acting Medical Officer of Health from 1st November).

GLADYS E. AINSCOW, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

EDITH AINSCOW, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Part-time).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

†*JOHN H. WRIGHT.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector- -

†*JOHN DEMPSEY.

Sanitary Inspectors :

†*JAMES F. ROGERS.

*LAWRENCE BUTTERWORTH.

Clerical Staff :

Chief Clerk and Statistician : *GEORGE H. ROE.

Second Clerk : J. H. MASSEY.

Clerk for M. and C. W. Work : MISS WINIFRED M. COOMBES.

Junior Clerk : A. H. CORNHILL

Nursing Staff :

MISS L. E. ROBERTS.

||†§*MISS L. WEALE.

§MISS A. WRIGHT.

§MISS B. D. HAIGH

§*MISS F. RICHARDS.

§MISS E. COLLINS

§MISS F. M. SULLIVAN.

§MISS J. E. ACKERS

The work of these Nurses is divided between the following Committees:—Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Education, and Mental Deficiency.

Health Visitor and Clerk to Tuberculosis Dispensary :

§MISS J. P. BATES.

Matron of Isolation Hospital : MISS F. E. WHITEHOUSE.

Public Analyst : JOSEPH LONES, F.I.C., F.C.S.

*Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

†Meat and Foods Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

‡Health Visitors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute,

||Maternity and Child Welfare Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

§Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

County Borough of Smethwick.

Public Health Department,
280, High Street, Smethwick.
May, 1927.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS FOR THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

MR. MAYOR, MRS. SANDS, AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and Tuberculosis Officer for the year 1926.

The population in the middle of 1926 was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 76,940, or about 2,000 lower than the previous year, and actually lower than the 1921 figure. On this figure being questioned the Registrar-General stated that the decrease of 2,000 on last year's figure was due to a change in formula in estimating populations throughout the country, but those people who are conversant with local conditions in Smethwick, the gross overcrowding, the number of new houses being built, and the fewness of the houses demolished, will agree that at least as regards Smethwick, the Registrar-General was more fortunate with the old formula. As however, the Registrar-General's figures are the official ones, his estimate has been used in the compilation of the statistics in this Report, although this means that the birth and death rates appear higher than they really are.

The number of births was 1,412, a figure which is approximately the same as last year, but much lower than 1924. The birth-rate was 18.36 per 1,000 of the population.

There were 93 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infant mortality rate of 65.86 per 1,000 births, compared with 80.11 the previous year. This is the lowest infant mortality rate recorded in the Borough, with the exception of 1923, when the rate was 65.49. The rate for England and Wales was 70.

There were 800 deaths in the Borough, as compared with 817 the previous year, giving a death-rate of 10.39. This compares with 11.6 for England and Wales and 11.6 for the 105 Great Towns.

The deaths from cancer continue to increase, being 97 for the year, an increase of 10 over last year's figure, but there were only 8 deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis as against 19 last year—a satisfactory feature.

In connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare service, the work continues to grow. The very rapid increase in the attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic is very gratifying and an additional session will shortly become necessary, I consider that this branch of the Maternity and Child Welfare work is the most important of all branches and trust that its development will proceed still further in the near future. Dental treatment for ante-natal mothers and for tubercular patients is an urgent necessity and will shortly have to be considered.

The good work done in the Ultra-Violet Ray Clinic continues, but in this connection a word of warning is necessary. Claims for this form of treatment have been made which cannot be substantiated, and while it is of great benefit, and indeed indispensable in certain conditions, it must be clearly recognised that it is not a universal panacea for all ills, that it will not cure all diseases, and that under certain conditions it can be harmful. It should only be used under careful medical supervision.

With regard to housing, the present situation cannot be better summarised than by quoting the following paragraph which occurred in Dr. Ferguson's report for 1925.

‘It is regrettable that in spite of the efforts of the Housing Committee very many cases of serious overcrowding still exist in the Borough, and housing conditions are becoming more acute if anything. A bold and fearless policy in this matter must be adopted. Something might be done to alleviate conditions by the erection of small blocks of four flats with limited accommodation for elderly couples and the newly married, which could be let at a reasonable rent. These dwellings might be particularly useful in connection with the scheme for the clearance of back-to-back houses.’

On the 31st October, Dr Ferguson left to take up his new position as Medical Officer of Health for Bethnal Green, and Dr. Sandilands was Acting Medical Officer of Health from 1st November to the end of the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Sands, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HUGH PAUL, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

COST OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1927.

| GENERAL DISTRICT FUND. | | | | | Amount | Rate in £ |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|------------|
| | | | | | £ s. d. | d. |
| Infectious Diseases : | | | | | | |
| Notification | .. | ... | ... | ... | 75 | 0.06 |
| Prevention | ... | ... | ... | ... | 717 | 0.62 |
| Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital | ... | | | ... | 2,464 | 2.11 |
| South Staffs. Joint Smallpox Hospital | ... | | | ... | 80 | 0.07 |
| Maternity and Child Welfare | ... | | ... | ... | 1,521 | 1.31 |
| Veneral Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 76 | 0.07 |
| Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,569 | 2.20 |
| Salaries (not otherwise charged) | ... | | ... | ... | 2,140 | 1.84 |
| | | | | | <hr/> 9,642 | <hr/> 8.28 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| BOROUGH FUND. | | | | | | |
| Mental Deficiency | ... | ... | ... | ... | 711 | 0.54 |
| Food and Drugs Act | ... | ... | ... | ... | 250 | 0.19 |
| Smoke Investigation | | ... | ... | ... | 12 | 0.01 |
| Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Act | | | | ... | 21 | 0.02 |
| Blind Persons Act | ... | ... | ... | ... | 255 | 0.19 |
| Staffs. Mental Hospital Board | ... | | ... | ... | 1,377 | 1.04 |
| Midwives Act, 1902 | | ... | ... | ... | 19 | 0.01 |
| Medical Inspection of School Children | ... | | | ... | 1,297 | 0.98 |
| | | | | | <hr/> 3,942 | <hr/> 2.98 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| Grand Totals | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13,584 | 11.26 |

The above figures represent estimated Net Expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1927.

Annual Report, 1926.

GENERAL STATISTICS :

AREA : 1,929 acres.

POPULATION : Census 1921—75,757.

Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-year 1926—76,940.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES : 1921—15,895.

1926—16,252.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS : 1921—16,366.

RATEABLE VALUE : £342,683 10s.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE : £1,165.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1926

| | | | Totals | Males | Females |
|----------|--------------|--------|--------|-------|---------|
| BIRTHS : | Legitimate | ... .. | 1,379 | 710 | 669 |
| | Illegitimate | ... .. | 33 | 17 | 16 |
| | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | Total | ... .. | 1,412 | 727 | 685 |
| | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

BIRTH-RATE : 18.35 per 1,000 of the population.

MARRIAGES : 609. Marriage-rate : 15.8 per 1,000

DEATHS : Total, 800. Males, 428; Females, 372.

DEATH-RATE : 10.39 per 1,000 of the population.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year of age :—Total, 93, Males 50, Females 43.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 births :—Total, 65.86; Legitimate, 65.26; Illegitimate, 90.9.

DEATHS FROM :—

| | | | | Number | Rate per 1,000 of Population. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|--------|----------------------------------|
| Enteric Fever | ... .. | ... | ... | 1 | 0.01 |
| Measles | ... .. | ... | ... | 4 | 0.05 |
| Whooping Cough | ... .. | ... | ... | 6 | 0.08 |
| Diarrhoea and Enteritis | | | | | |
| | (under 2 years) | | | 8 | 0.10 |
| Diphtheria | ... .. | ... | ... | 9 | 0.11 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... .. | ... | ... | 1 | 0.01 |
| Influenza | ... .. | ... | ... | 23 | 0.29 |
| Cancer | ... .. | ... | ... | 97 | 1.26 |
| Respiratory Diseases | | ... | ... | 145 | 1.88 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | | ... | ... | 61 | 0.79 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | | ... | ... | 8 | 0.10 |

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1926.

| | BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION | ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION. | | | | | | | | | RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS | | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS. | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| | | All Causes | Enteric Fever | Small-pox | Measles | Scarlet Fever | Whooping Cough | Diphtheria | Influenza | Violence | Diarrhea and Enteritis (under 2 years) | Total Deaths under 1 year | Causes of Death certified by Regd. Med. Practitioners | Inquest Cases | Uncertified Causes of Death |
| England and Wales ... | 17.8 | 11.6 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.09 | 0.02 | 0.10 | 0.07 | 0.22 | 0.47 | 8.7 | 70 | 91.8 | 7.2 | 1.0 |
| County Boroughs and great Towns, including London ... | 18.2 | 11.6 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 0.02 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.22 | 0.43 | 11.8 | 73 | 92.0 | 7.5 | 0.5 |
| Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted Populations, 10,000—50,000) ... | 17.6 | 10.6 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.07 | 0.02 | 0.11 | 0.06 | 0.23 | 0.40 | 6.6 | 67 | 92.6 | 6.3 | 1.1 |
| London ... | 17.1 | 11.6 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.20 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.12 | 0.17 | 0.48 | 11.8 | 64 | 90.6 | 9.1 | 0.0 |
| SMETHWICK ... | 18.3 | 10.3 | 0.01 | — | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.08 | 0.11 | 0.29 | 0.62 | 5.6 | 65 | 91.0 | 8.9 | 0.1 |

The total deaths registered in Smethwick numbered 545; 14 of these were non-residents and were transferred to other districts, while 269 Smethwick residents died in other districts and have been added to the number registered in the Borough. The nett deaths thus number 800, giving a rate of 10.39 per 1,000 of the population. One-third of the deaths occurred in public institutions.

Reference to the table above will show that Smethwick again compares favourably with other towns and with the country as a whole, and it is worthy of note that 278 or 34.7 per cent of those dying during the year were over 65 years of age. The mean age at death was 46.4 years, compared with 45.8 last year, 43.8 in 1924, 43.6 in 1923, and 41.1 in 1922.

The Birth-rate was again low (18.35) and compares with 18.36 last year, 20.19 in 1924, 20.24 in 1923, and 21.39 in 1922.

The number of marriages declined to 609, against 669 last year, 628 in 1924, 654 in 1923, and 610 in 1922.

The Infant Mortality rate for the year was 65.8 per 1,000 births, but slightly higher than the lowest record for the Borough. This compares with 70 for England and Wales, and 73 for the 105 great towns. One half of the infant deaths occurred in the first 4 weeks of life, and one-third during the first seven days.

A table giving a detailed analysis of the causes of death, based on the "International List of Causes of Death" and of age and sex distribution will be found in the Appendix to this Report, and a similar table relating to the deaths of infants under one year appears on page 31.

COMPARISON OF RATES IN THE VARIOUS WARDS :

| Ward | Estimated Population | Total Acreage | Density | General Death-rate | Respiratory Death-rate | Infant Mortality rate |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Spon Lane ... | 12,694 | 515 | 24.6 | 9.7 | 1.4 | 81.3 |
| Sandwell ... | 11,794 | 411 | 28.7 | 12.8 | 3.6 | 78.9 |
| Uplands | 8,588 | 255 | 33.7 | 9.9 | 1.9 | 69.4 |
| Bearwood ... | 21,166 | 348 | 60.8 | 9.1 | 0.9 | 57.8 |
| Victoria ... | 11,646 | * 176 | 66.2 | 10.0 | 1.9 | 47.4 |
| Soho | 11,052 | 224 | 49.3 | 10.1 | 2.2 | 57.8 |
| Totals ... | 76,940 | 1,929 | 39.9 | 10.39 | 1.88 | 65.8 |

REVIEW OF VITAL STATISTICS IN SMETHWICK DURING THE
PAST 25 YEARS.

| Year | Estimated population | Marriage rate per 1,000 | Birth rate per 1,000 | Death rate per 1,000 | Infant mor- tality rate per 1,000 births | Zymotic death rate per 1,000 | Death rates per 1,000 Respiratory diseases | Pulmonary tuber- culosis | Cancer |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1902 ... | 55,700 | 12.1 | 35.4 | 13.8 | 127 | 1.4 | 2.9 | 0.75 | 0.55 |
| 1903 ... | 58,000 | 14.8 | 34.1 | 14.1 | 141.7 | 1.2 | 3.1 | 0.65 | 0.77 |
| 1904 ... | 61,000 | 11.08 | 32.06 | 13.2 | 145.6 | 1.24 | 2.67 | 0.93 | 0.80 |
| 1905 ... | 63,000 | 14.9 | 30.3 | 15.0 | 139 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 0.73 | 0.60 |
| 1906 ... | 65,000 | 15.6 | 31.2 | 14.6 | 130 | 2.21 | 2.7 | 1.03 | 0.67 |
| 1907 ... | 67,000 | 14.4 | 29.4 | 14.34 | 116 | 1.43 | 3.1 | 0.78 | 0.85 |
| 1908 ... | 69,500 | 14.1 | 30.0 | 14.5 | 135 | 1.84 | 2.7 | 0.86 | 0.70 |
| 1909 ... | 70,300 | 13.8 | 28.1 | 13.4 | 116 | 2.23 | 2.8 | 0.82 | 0.76 |
| 1910 ... | 72,000 | 15.2 | 27.35 | 12.42 | 108 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 0.84 | 0.54 |
| 1911 ... | 70,681 | 15.9 | 27.8 | 14.6 | 140 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 0.94 | 0.79 |
| 1912 ... | 73,372 | 16.3 | 25.8 | 12.32 | 111 | 0.9 | 2.8 | 0.9 | 0.7 |
| 1913 ... | 72,936 | 18.0 | 28.1 | 14.98 | 127 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 0.8 | 0.76 |
| 1914 ... | 72,975 | 16.8 | 27.5 | 14.13 | 106 | 1.67 | 3.4 | 1.26 | 0.89 |
| 1915 ... | 72,439 | 21.6 | 25.88 | 13.8 | 109.3 | 2.13 | 3.02 | 1.10 | 0.98 |
| 1916 ... | 78,335 | 17.4 | 22.04 | 11.08 | 93.8 | 0.77 | 3.33 | 1.20 | 0.84 |
| 1917 ... | 78,235 | 18.11 | 20.32 | 11.5 | 99.8 | 0.71 | 3.9 | 1.30 | 0.86 |
| 1918 ... | 76,056 | 16.49 | 20.28 | 15.63 | 102.4 | 0.6 | 3.56 | 1.43 | 0.9 |
| 1919 ... | 73,000 | 17.67 | 22.19 | 13.00 | 84.6 | 0.45 | 3.2 | 1.19 | 1.03 |
| 1920 ... | 75,027 | 22.71 | 27.08 | 11.16 | 82.18 | 0.64 | 2.4 | 0.81 | 0.92 |
| 1921 ... | 77,400 | 16.4 | 25.46 | 11.11 | 88.28 | 0.69 | 2.27 | 0.68 | 0.85 |
| 1922 ... | 78,140 | 15.6 | 21.39 | 11.22 | 86.12 | 0.67 | 2.31 | 0.78 | 1.13 |
| 1923 ... | 78,450 | 16.6 | 20.24 | 10.82 | 65.49 | 0.79 | 1.82 | 0.93 | 1.04 |
| 1924 ... | 78,790 | 15.9 | 20.19 | 10.12 | 74.79 | 0.41 | 1.87 | 0.67 | 1.20 |
| 1925 ... | 78,840 | 16.9 | 18.36 | 10.36 | 80.11 | 0.52 | 1.91 | 0.77 | 1.10 |
| 1926 ... | 76,940 | 15.8 | 18.35 | 10.39 | 65.86 | 0.37 | 1.88 | 0.79 | 1.26 |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1926.

11

| DISEASE. | TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED. | | | | | | | | | | | | | Cases admitted to Hospital. | TOTAL DEATHS. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| | AGE GROUPS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | AGE GROUPS. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | All ages | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 | 65 and upwards | | All ages | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 | 65 and upwards |
| Enteric Fever | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Scarlet Fever | 74 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 33 | 14 | 6 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 45 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Diphtheria | 110 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 36 | 22 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 2 | ... | 77 | 9 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | |
| Erysipelas | 24 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Puerperal Fever | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 5 | ... | ... | 9 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 11 | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Primary Pneumonia | 116 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 33 | 23 | 7 | 7 | 35 | 24 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Influenzal Pneumonia | 21 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 17 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Tuberculosis:— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Pulmonary... | 53 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 16 | ... | 57 | 30 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 8 | 9 | 11 | ... | |
| | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 23 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 39 | 31 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 9 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 2 | |
| Total... | 94 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 7 | 42 | 14 | 23 | 2 | 96 | 61 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 11 | 18 | 12 | 16 | 2 | |
| (b) Other forms | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | ... | 2 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | |
| | 8 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | |
| Total... | 16 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 3 | ... | 3 | 8 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | |
| GRAND TOTALS | 497 | 23 | 6 | 20 | 12 | 16 | 83 | 52 | 43 | 111 | 60 | 58 | 13 | 383 | 122 | 4 | 2 | 3 | ... | 1 | 5 | 1 | 19 | 27 | 21 | 25 | 14 |

SMETHWICK & OLDBURY JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

STATEMENT OF CASES ADMITTED AND DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR 1926.

| | Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1925. | | | | Number of Cases Admitted during 1926. | | | | Cases Discharged, Died, or Transferred to other Institutions during 1926. | | | | Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1926. | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Children under 16 | Total. | Males. | Females. | Children under 16 | Total. | Males. | Females. | Children under 16 | Total. | Males. | Females. | Children under 16 | Total. |
| SMETHWICK : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever ... | ... | ... | 6 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 40 | 45 | 3 | 2 | 43 | 48 | ... | ... | 3 | 3 |
| Diphtheria ... | 1 | 2 | 12 | 15 | 12 | 8 | 57 | 77 | 13 | 10 | 60 | 83 | ... | ... | 9 | 9 |
| OLDBURY : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 | 15 | ... | ... | 14 | 14 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Diphtheria ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 21 | 23 | ... | 2 | 21 | 23 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Totals ... | 1 | 2 | 18 | 21 | 15 | 12 | 133 | 160 | 16 | 14 | 138 | 168 | ... | ... | 13 | 13 |

SCARLET FEVER :—The following complications occurred :

| | Cases |
|----------------|-------|
| Adenitis ... | 15 |
| Arthritis ... | 6 |
| Otorrhœa ... | 10 |
| Rhinorrhœa ... | 2 |

DIPHTHERIA :—The following complications occurred :

| | Cases |
|---------------------|-------|
| Cardiac paresis ... | 5 |
| Palatal paresis ... | 10 |
| Rhinorrhœa ... | 3 |

Tracheotomy was performed in 1 case during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year under review there was a marked decrease in the incidence of Scarlet Fever. The cases notified numbered 74, against 165 last year. Sixty per cent of the cases notified were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane. One death occurred.

There were 45 cases of Scarlet Fever in children of school age, compared with 114 in the previous year. The incidence was not marked in any particular school.

The age incidence of the persons attacked will be found in the table on page 11.

The incidence of, and mortality from Scarlet Fever during the past ten years is as follows:—

| Year | Cases notified | Attack rate per 1,000 of population | Number of deaths | Case mortality per cent. |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1917 | 105 | 1.3 | 1 | 0.9 |
| 1918 | 52 | 0.7 | 1 | 1.9 |
| 1919 | 145 | 2.0 | 5 | 3.4 |
| 1920 | 514 | 6.8 | 2 | 0.4 |
| 1921 | 426 | 5.5 | 3 | 0.7 |
| 1922 | 270 | 3.4 | 2 | 0.7 |
| 1923 | 207 | 2.6 | 4 | 1.9 |
| 1924 | 126 | 1.5 | — | — |
| 1925 | 165 | 2.0 | 3 | 1.8 |
| 1926 | 74 | 0.9 | 1 | 1.3 |

DIPHTHERIA.

This disease continued to be prevalent throughout the year, 110 cases being notified, compared with 104 during the previous year. The mortality was unfortunately higher, 9 deaths occurring, or 8.1 per cent of the cases notified.

There were 56 cases in children of school age, against 51 last year, but with no particular incidence in any one school.

The age periods of the persons attacked will be found in the table on page 11.

The incidence of, and mortality from Diphtheria during the past ten years is as follows:—

| Year | Cases notified | Attack rate per 1,000 of population | Number of deaths | Case mortality per cent. |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1917 | 56 | 0.7 | 6 | 10.7 |
| 1918 | 70 | 1.0 | 8 | 11.4 |
| 1919 | 94 | 1.29 | 6 | 6.4 |
| 1920 | 177 | 2.3 | 16 | 9.0 |
| 1921 | 132 | 1.7 | 9 | 6.8 |
| 1922 | 119 | 1.5 | 10 | 8.4 |
| 1923 | 138 | 1.75 | 10 | 13.7 |
| 1924 | 141 | 1.78 | 7 | 4.9 |
| 1925 | 104 | 1.3 | 5 | 4.8 |
| 1926 | 110 | 1.4 | 9 | 8.1 |

Antitoxin is supplied free to medical practitioners in the Borough, 234 phials of 8,000 units being issued during the year, compared with 194 last year, and 219 in 1924.

It is to be regretted that parents are not taking advantage of the facilities offered to protect their children against this dangerous disease by means of Toxin-Antitoxin inoculation. Toxin-Antitoxin is now available free of charge to medical practitioners in the town for prophylaxis in the same way as Antitoxin is given for curative purposes.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Four cases were notified during the year, with one death. Three of the cases gave a history of eating shell-fish. The fish in question were traced to a wholesaler in Birmingham and the Medical Officer of Health of the city was informed. Samples were procured and examined, but with negative results. No further cases occurred from this source.

In the fourth case the only suspicious circumstance was that the milk retailer was the same who supplied one of the above-mentioned cases. Specimens were obtained from him and from members of his family, but bacteriological examinations gave negative results in each case.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

Four cases were reported during the year, against 7 last year, and 13 in 1924. One case was treated in hospital. In no case did death supervene.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

No case of this disease was reported during the year.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

No case of this disease was reported during the year.

MALARIA, DYSENTERY, and TRENCH FEVER.

No notifications were received of these diseases during the year.

SMALLPOX.

No case of Smallpox was notified during the year. Several notifications were received of contacts arriving in the area from ships or from other towns, and these persons were visited and kept under observation.

The members of the staff at the Health Department and at the Isolation Hospital were re-vaccinated in 1923.

Leaflets are distributed at the Infant Welfare Centres and at the Health Office placing before the public the benefits of vaccination.

The Vaccination Officer's Return for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1926 and for previous years is given below. In 1911-12 the conscientious objectors represented 18.1 per cent. This figure gradually rose to 34.4 per cent in 1920-21 and fell to 25 per cent in 1923-24. Last year the percentage again rose to 34.3 and in view of the continued prevalence of Smallpox throughout the country this tendency to neglect the protection which vaccination affords is much to be deplored.

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

| Year ending 30th June, | Births | Vaccinations | Insusceptible | Conscientious objections | Died unvaccinated | Postponed by medical certificate | Gone to other districts | Gone— no address | Outstanding | Percentage of conscientious objections* |
|---------------------------|--------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1926 | 1,267 | 731 | 2 | 414 | 62 | 20 | 4 | 6 | 28 | 34.3 |
| 1925 | 1,406 | 866 | 3 | 404 | 55 | 29 | 7 | 15 | 27 | 29.9 |
| 1924 | 1,448 | 958 | 2 | 343 | 76 | 13 | 15 | 9 | 32 | 25.0 |
| 1923 | 1,535 | 984 | — | 428 | 62 | 15 | 6 | 10 | 30 | 29.0 |
| 1922 | 1,759 | 1,024 | 2 | 561 | 101 | 14 | 7 | 17 | 33 | 33.8 |
| 1921 | 1,884 | 1,046 | 5 | 608 | 119 | 32 | 10 | 20 | 44 | 34.4 |
| 1920 | 1,944 | 1,153 | 2 | 549 | 118 | 44 | 17 | 25 | 36 | 29 |
| 1919 | 1,438 | 816 | — | 421 | 104 | 20 | 21 | 23 | 33 | 31 |
| 1918 | 1,494 | 853 | 6 | 418 | 116 | 40 | 16 | 11 | 34 | 30 |
| 1917 | 1,689 | 1,042 | 3 | 425 | 120 | 36 | 15 | 20 | 28 | 27 |

* In calculating these percentages, the number dying unvaccinated has been deducted from the total number of births

PNEUMONIA.

The cases of Primary Pneumonia notified during the year numbered 116, compared with 126 last year. Twenty-one cases of Influenzal Pneumonia were reported, against 24 last year. The notifications and deaths for each year since the commencement of the Pneumonia Regulations are as follows:—

PRIMARY PNEUMONIA INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA

| Year | Notifications | Deaths | Notifications | Deaths |
|------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| 1919 | 75 | 45 | 62 | 64 |
| 1920 | 97 | 46 | 26 | 10 |
| 1921 | 70 | 49 | 8 | 3 |
| 1922 | 103 | 37 | 51 | 26 |
| 1923 | 141 | 37 | 27 | 14 |
| 1924 | 89 | 18 | 32 | 12 |
| 1925 | 126 | 38 | 24 | 16 |
| 1926 | 116 | 24 | 21 | 17 |

MEASLES.

Measles continued fairly prevalent throughout the year and accounted for 4 deaths, two under one year, one at age 1-2 and 1 in the group 5-10 years.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease was also prevalent throughout the year, and there were 6 deaths, 3 under one, and one in each of the age groups 1-2, 2-3, and 5-10. Forty-six children (38 babies and 8 children of school age) were treated at the Light Clinic during the year, with most satisfactory results. (See tables on page 38).

INFLUENZA.

Influenza was not particularly prevalent during the year. Twenty-three deaths occurred. The mortality rate was 0.29 per 1,000 of the population, against 0.25 last year, and compared with 0.22 for the whole country.

CANCER.

Ninety-seven deaths were certified from this disease during the year, compared with 87 the previous year. The following table shows the increase in the mortality from cancer since 1901. A large proportion of this increase is no doubt due to more accurate diagnosis, but the figures are nevertheless disquieting.

| Five years | No. of Deaths | Average rate per 1,000 of population |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1901-1905 | 196 | 0.67 |
| 1906-1910 | 246 | 0.71 |
| 1911-1915 | 303 | 0.83 |
| 1916-1920 | 342 | 0.89 |
| 1921-1925 | 419 | 1.07 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 1926 | 97 | 1.26 |
| <hr/> | | |

Educational efforts have been continued amongst the public and the midwives by means of leaflets pointing out the necessity for early diagnosis and the imperative need for patients to consult a medical man early when any suspicious signs are observed.

In addition to the apparatus for the treatment of cancer by means of powerful X-Rays (Erlangen treatment) available at the Skin Hospital, John Bright Street, Birmingham, a new apparatus has been provided at the Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham, under the charge of Dr. Russell Green. I understand that this apparatus is available for all classes of patients, including the private patients of general practitioners.

RHEUMATIC DISEASES.

The large group of Rheumatic Diseases is of great importance to the community. The recent report of the Ministry of Health on the incidence of Rheumatic Diseases discloses the fact that nearly one-sixth of the industrial invalidity in this country was due to "rheumatism."

The following table may be of interest as giving some indication of the actual mortality caused by these diseases. The deaths due to heart disease are separated from the rest of the table, but the presumption is that the greatest number are due to rheumatic infection. It must always be borne in mind that the "damage rate" in Rheumatic Diseases is considerably greater than the death-rate. The term "Heart Disease" in the table includes only pericarditis, endocarditis, and valvular disease, as being probably rheumatic in origin.

| Cause of death. | Chorea. | Rheumatic Fever. | Chronic Rheumatism. | Heart Disease. |
|--------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1919 | — | 2 | — | 32 |
| 1920 | -- | 6 | --- | 54 |
| 1921 | 1 | 7 | --- | 52 |
| 1922 | --- | 5 | — | 39 |
| 1923 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 46 |
| 1924 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 33 |
| 1925 | — | 9 | 2 | 35 |
| 1926 | — | 3 | 1 | 24 |

The chief field in the prevention of these diseases lies in education, and care of the earliest manifestations in childhood. "Growing pains" and Chorea (St. Vitus' Dance) in children are forms of Rheumatic Disease and children with these conditions should be carefully watched and kept under medical supervision. Attention to septic teeth and diseased tonsils are also important factors. A sufficient wage, abolition of dampness, and the provision of as much sunlight as possible, will help in prevention. The prevention of Rheumatic Diseases offers a big field for future public health endeavour.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Immediately on receipt of a notification of infectious disease the premises are visited by a sanitary inspector. At these visits arrangements are made for the efficient isolation of the patient, or alternatively for removal of the case to the Isolation Hospital. The circumstances in connection with the case, such as occupation of patient and family, sources of water supply and milk supply, probable sources of infection, etc., are recorded and tabulated, and any insanitary conditions found are noted and dealt with. Cards of instruction as to the prevention of the spread of infection are sent to the parents or guardians in each case, and the Education Office notified of all children of school age in infected houses. In addition a list of notified cases is sent daily to the Borough Librarian. Library books in infected houses are destroyed.

On the termination of illness or on removal of a case to hospital the premises are disinfected by means of formalin spray or lamp and where necessary notices are served upon the owners to strip and lime-wash the rooms occupied by the patient. Infected clothing, bedding, etc., is removed to the Isolation Hospital and dealt with in a Manlove and Elliott's steam disinfecter.

The number of lots of bedding, etc., removed for disinfection during the year was 403, comprising 4,849 articles. The total number of disinfections was 413, and the following is a classified list of the reasons for the disinfection of premises :—

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 76 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 112 |
| Enteric Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 123 |
| Cancer | ... | ... | ... | ... | 65 |
| Puerperal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Schools | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Scabies | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Vermineous houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Other causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| | | | | | <hr/> 413 <hr/> |

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Arrangements are made for the necessary routine bacteriological examinations to be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory of the University of Birmingham. The number of specimens examined during the year, and the results, are set out below :—

| Nature of Specimen. | Number. | Positive | Negative. |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Throat Swabs for Diphtheria bacilli— | | | |
| Suspects | 374 | 75 | 299 |
| Contacts | 57 | 9 | 48 |
| Nasal Swabs for Diphtheria bacilli— | | | |
| Suspects | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Contacts | 36 | 10 | 26 |
| Exudate from Eyes for Gonococci— | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Blood for B. Typhosus | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Blood for B. Para-typhosus B. | 2 | — | 2 |
| Urine for B. Typhosus | 8 | — | 8 |
| Fæces for B. Typhosus | 4 | — | 4 |
| Sputum for Tubercle bacilli | 329 | 59 | 270 |
| Milk for Bacterial Count | 34 | — | — |
| Totals | <hr/> 856 <hr/> | <hr/> 160 <hr/> | <hr/> 662 <hr/> |

In addition to the above 198 swabs were examined for Diphtheria bacilli at the Hospital, Holly Lane, from patients in the hospital, 31 giving positive and 167 negative results. Two consecutive negative swabs are required before a patient is discharged.

Annual Report of the Tuberculosis Officer for the Year 1926.

NOTIFICATIONS.

One hundred and ten notifications were received during the year, 94 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 16 of other forms of the disease. The following table shows the notifications received and the attack-rate for each year since the commencement of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912 :—

| | | Attack Rate per | | | |
|------|--------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| | | Notifications received : | | 1,000 of the population. | |
| | | Pulmonary. | Other forms | Pulmonary | Other forms. |
| 1912 | ..... | 307 | — | 4.1 | — |
| 1913 | ..... | 318 | 50 | 4.3 | 0.68 |
| 1914 | ..... | 143 | 167 | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| 1915 | ... .. | 229 | 103 | 3.1 | 1.4 |
| 1916 | ..... | 204 | 117 | 2.6 | 1.4 |
| 1917 | ..... | 206 | 126 | 2.6 | 1.6 |
| 1918 | ..... | 194 | 80 | 2.5 | 1.0 |
| 1919 | ..... | 260 | 60 | 3.5 | 0.8 |
| 1920 | ..... | 146 | 31 | 1.9 | 0.4 |
| 1921 | ..... | 88 | 14 | 1.1 | 0.18 |
| 1922 | ..... | 112 | 17 | 1.4 | 0.2 |
| 1923 | ..... | 80 | 18 | 1.02 | 0.2 |
| 1924 | ..... | 110 | 18 | 1.39 | 0.2 |
| 1925 | ..... | 74 | 24 | 0.9 | 0.3 |
| 1926 | ..... | 94 | 16 | 1.2 | 0.2 |

The increase in attack rate is only an apparent one, and is probably due to more efficient notification by general practitioners.

The deaths from all forms of tuberculosis during the year numbered 69, of which 63 were notified cases, and 6 not notified. The ratio of unnotified deaths to the total deaths is 8.7%, against 25% last year, and 26.8%, 29.8% and 38.7% in the three previous years. The steps taken to secure better notification have thus had satisfactory results.

The following table shows the total NEW CASES during the year, i.e., all PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS and also other NEW cases coming to the know-

ledge of the Medical Officer of Health from the death returns or otherwise; and also the deaths registered during the year :—

TUBERCULOSIS.

| AGE PERIODS. | NEW CASES. | | | | DEATHS. | | | |
|--------------|------------|----|--------------|---|------------|----|--------------|---|
| | Pulmonary. | | Other forms. | | Pulmonary. | | Other forms. | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 to 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| 1 to 5 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 5 to 10 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 10 to 15 | 2 | 2 | — | 3 | — | — | 1 | — |
| 15 to 20 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| 20 to 25 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | — | — |
| 25 to 35 | 9 | 15 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| 35 to 45 | 10 | 5 | 1 | — | 9 | 3 | 2 | — |
| 45 to 55 | 15 | 6 | 2 | — | 8 | 5 | — | — |
| 55 to 65 | 3 | 1 | 2 | — | 3 | — | — | — |
| 65 upwards | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| TOTALS | 55 | 43 | 10 | 8 | 30 | 31 | 5 | 3 |

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No tubercular employees in the milk trade were discovered during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

The Council provide beds for advanced cases at Holly Lane Hospital, but in no case was it found necessary to apply for an Order for the compulsory removal of a patient to hospital.

AFTER-CARE WORK.

After care work has been carried out by the staff at the Chest Clinic and the following is a summary of the work done during the year :—

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Patients receiving loan of beds and bedding | 18 |
| Patients receiving loan of shelters, including beds ... | 12 |
| Advanced cases of domiciliary treatment receiving loans of bed-pans, air-cushions, etc. | 28 |
| Cases receiving grants of milk | 33 |

CONTACTS.

Ninety-three persons living in infected houses and in intimate contact with cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been carefully examined and dealt with during the year. Of these, 1 was found to be definitely suffering from the disease, 77 were regarded as being free from active tuberculosis, and 15 were still under observation at the end of the year. The number of contacts re-examined during the year was 67.

CONTACTS.

| No. of infecting cases | | | No. of contacts examined. | | | No. found tuberculous. | | | No. suspected. | | | No. of non-tuberculous. | | |
|------------------------|----|-----|---------------------------|----|-----|------------------------|----|-----|----------------|----|-----|-------------------------|----|-----|
| M. | F. | Ch. | M. | F. | Ch. | M. | F. | Ch. | M. | F. | Ch. | M. | F. | Ch. |
| 35 | 14 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 50 | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 26 | 43 |
| 50 | | | 93 | | | 1 | | | 15 | | | 77 | | |

HOME NURSING AND EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

The nurses visit certain advanced cases in their homes where satisfactory isolation can be secured, and bath the patients.

In 33 cases extra nourishment in the form of grants of milk was given during the year.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

These cases are dealt with as outlined above in institutions and are thereafter referred to the Chest Clinic and to the Smethwick Cripples' Union for after-care. Certain of these cases have received ultra-violet radiation with beneficial results. Surgical appliances are provided as required, the parents being asked to pay a proportion of the cost.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE AT THE CHEST CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1926.

| | Males. | Females. | Children under 15 Years. | Total. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------------------------|--------|
| Number of New Cases | 79 | 81 | 87 | 247 |
| Number of Re-attendances | 975 | 913 | 2246 | 4134 |
| Number of Insured Persons commencing treatment at the Clinic ... | 39 | 14 | — | 53 |
| Ditto at Romsley Hill Sanatorium ... | 33 | 12 | — | 45 |
| Ditto at Holly Lane Sanatorium ... | 22 | 6 | — | 28 |
| New Cases taken on at the Clinic for Observation or Treatment ... | 26 | 41 | 32 | 99 |
| New Cases passed for Sanatoria ... | 40 | 28 | 5 | 73 |
| Referred to other Institutions ... | 10 | 7 | 9 | 26 |
| Old Patients re-examined | 109 | 73 | 43 | 225 |
| Chest Clinic Cases transferred to Sanatoria | 19 | 11 | 3 | 33 |
| Sanatoria Cases transferred to Chest Clinic | 17 | 13 | 1 | 31 |
| Home Visits :— | | | | |
| Tuberculosis Officer | | | | 66 |
| Nurses | | | | 1618 |
| Special After-care visits | | | | 35 |
| Attendances of Patients receiving Injection Treatment | 500 | 322 | 70 | 892 |
| Attendances of Patients receiving Ultra-Violet Radiation Treatment | 256 | 381 | 1994 | 2631 |
| Contacts :— | | | | |
| Number of Infecting Cases ... | 35 | 14 | 1 | 50 |
| Number of Contacts examined ... | 13 | 30 | 50 | 93 |
| Number found tuberculous ... | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Number suspected | 5 | 3 | 7 | 15 |
| Number found non-tuberculous ... | 8 | 26 | 43 | 77 |
| Number of Contacts re-examined... | 6 | 28 | 33 | 67 |
| X-Ray Examinations | | | | 70 |
| Surgical Dressings | | | | 192 |
| Blanket Baths | | | | 9 |
| TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT THE CLINIC : | | | | 4381 |
| Old and New Cases | | | | 91.2 |
| Average Weekly Attendance... | | | | |

The total number of cases (old and new) on the Register at the Chest Clinic at the end of the year was 513.

During the year 1926, 247 persons applied at the Chest Clinic for advice and treatment. These were divided as follows :—

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-----------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Insured persons | 71 | 37 | 108 |
| Dependents of insured persons ... | 46 | 86 | 132 |
| Non-insured persons | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Total | 121 | 126 | 247 |

AGE AND SEX CONSTITUTION OF THE 247 PERSONS EXAMINED
AT THE CHEST CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1926.

| | Ages | 0-5 | 5 10 | 10-15 | 15-25 | 25-35 | 35-45 | 45 up | |
|---------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|----------|-------|
| Sex | M.F. | M.F. | M.F. | M.F. | M.F. | M.F. | M.F. | M.F. | Total |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | |
| Pulmonary | | | | | | | | | |
| Tuberculosis : | | | | | | | | | |
| Definite | - | - | 1 | - | - | 10 11 | 8 14 | 9 1 12 5 | 71 |
| Suspected | 3 | - | 4 3 | 2 5 | 9 3 | 2 4 | 1 2 3 | - | 41 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | |
| Tuberculosis : | | | | | | | | | |
| Other forms | 1 | - | 2 1 | - 2 | 4 2 | 1 1 | - - 1 - | | 15 |
| Non-Tuberculous ... | 3 | 3 | 17 21 | 9 10 | 1 14 | 4 10 | 5 8 9 6 | | 120 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 7 | 3 | 24 25 | 11 17 | 24 30 | 15 29 | 15 11 25 11 | | 247 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | |

VISITS.

During the year the Tuberculosis Officer paid 66 visits to patients in their own homes. The nurses paid 1,618 visits, and, in addition, 35 visits in connection with the after-care of patients. It has been the aim of the staff at the Clinic to foster a friendly feeling in these visits and to obviate as much as possible any suggestion of officialism or inspection.

The average length of stay in the Open Air Wards at Holly Lane was 11.1 weeks, against 13.2 last year, 13.2 in 1924 and 10.8 in 1923

CONDITION OF PATIENTS ON DISCHARGE (ALL INSTITUTIONS).

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| Markedly Improved | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Improved | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| In Statu Quo | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Worse | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Died | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| | | | | | | | <hr/> 90 <hr/> |

RECREATION.

Contributions of books, periodicals, etc., for the patients' library will be welcome from anyone reading this Report. Through the kindness of Mr. H. V. Worwood and the Smethwick Insurance Committee, newspapers and periodicals are supplied weekly to the patients at Holly Lane.

We have again to thank Mr. T. Collins, J.P., and the Chairman of the Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee (Alderman T. W. Evans, J.P.) for the interest they have taken in the wireless receiving set installed at Holly Lane through their efforts. Mr. John H. Wright, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, kindly undertook the maintenance of the installation during the year, which has proved an invaluable boon to the patients.

The carpenter's shop has continued to be useful and the women patients have carried on with their small stock of poultry.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

By arrangement, treatment is available for Smethwick patients at the General Hospital, Birmingham. The Centre is open for men and women on the following days:—

Men—Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.—8 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday, 2—8 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Sunday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Women—Tuesday and Friday from 10 to 12 noon. Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m.

The number of Smethwick residents dealt with at the Centre during the year was 83, compared with 89 last year, 64 in 1924, 61 in 1923, 71 in 1922, 73 in 1921, 120 in 1920, and 143 in 1919.

The report of the Medical Officer of the Treatment Centre for the year under review shows:—

- A. Number of Smethwick patients dealt with during the year at or in connection with the Out-Patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from:—

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Syphilis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Soft Chancre | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Gonorrhœa | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| Conditions other than Venereal | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| | | | | | | | — |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 83 |
| | | | | | | | — |

- B. Total number of attendances at the Out-patient Clinic of all patients residing in Smethwick ... 3,146

- C. Aggregate number of "In-Patient days" of all patients residing in Smethwick ... 74

- D. Number of doses of Salvarsan substitute given ... 748

Pathological examinations made during the year 1926 relating to patients residing in Smethwick:—

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| For detection of Spirochetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| For detection of Gonococci | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 305 |
| For Wasserman reaction | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 144 |
| | | | | | | — |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 450 |
| | | | | | | — |

Seven enquiries in connection with the scheme were received at the Health Office during the year. Any member of the public is confidentially and courteously received and given full information. Enamel signs calling attention to the necessity for immediate treatment and giving information as to the treatment centre are permanently fixed in all public conveniences throughout the Borough.

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(1) **TUBERCULOSIS :—**

Holly Lane Hospital, Smethwick. 22 beds for advanced and chronic cases, and 12 beds in chalets.

Romsley Hill Sanatorium, near Halesowen. (Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund). 20 beds reserved for Smethwick patients.

For Surgical Tuberculosis: Authority given to send up to 6 cases to "The Woodlands," Northfield, "The Forelands," Broms-grove, or Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton, Hants.

(2) **MATERNITY :—**

Two beds reserved for cases of Puerperal Fever at the Women's Hospital, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

Under an Agreement between the Smethwick Corporation and the Guardians of the Birmingham Union, the Guardians receive in Dudley Road and Selly Oak Hospitals such cases as are recommended by the Medical Officer of Health for maternity treatment. The Guardians collect from the patients such amounts towards the cost of treatment as the circumstances allow and the Corporation pay to the Guardians a sum to make up the amount of seven shillings per day of each patient's residence in hospital.

3^d **CHILDREN :—**

No hospital is provided or subsidised by the Corporation.

(4) **FEVER :—**

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick (total 60 beds). Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases only.

(5) **SMALLPOX :—**

South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital, Bagnall, near Stoke-on-Trent.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS, AND HOMELESS CHILDREN :—

None at present.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :—

(a) For Infectious Cases: Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee have a motor ambulance, which is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick. (Telephone: Smethwick 159).

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases: Town Ambulance kept at the Fire Station, Rolfe Street, Smethwick. (Telephone: Smethwick 22).

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES :—

There are five Infant Welfare Centres in the Borough, and sessions are held on the following days from 2 to 4.30 p.m.

- No. 1. Baptist Hall, Rawlings Road. Mondays and Wednesdays.
- No. 2. 95, Soho Street. Mondays and Thursdays.
- No. 3. St. Stephen's Hall, Sydenham Road. Wednesdays and Fridays.
- No. 4. Smethwick Hall School, Devonshire Road. Tuesdays.
- No. 5. Congregational Church Hall, Oldbury Road. Fridays.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC :—

Held in the Chest Clinic, Council House, on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4.30 p.m. and on Saturday mornings from 9.30 to 12.30 o'clock.

SCHOOL CLINICS :—

Two School Clinics are provided, one at 95, Soho Street, Six Ways, and one at Smethwick Hall Schools, Devonshire Road. The days and times of attendance are as follows :—

Treatment Clinics :—

Six Ways: Monday, 2.30—5; Tuesday, 2.30—5; Wednesday, 2.30—5; Thursday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 9.30—1.
 Smethwick Hall: Monday, 9.30—11.30; Tuesday, 9.30—1; Wednesday, 9.30—11.30; Thursday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 9.30—1.

Inspection Clinics :—

Six Ways: Friday, 9.30—1.
 Smethwick Hall: Thursday, 9.30—1.

EYE CLINIC :—

Smethwick Hall: Mondays and Thursdays, 2—5 p.m.

IONISATION CLINIC :—

Six Ways: Tuesday, 10—12.30.

CLEANSING STATION (for Scabies, etc.):—

Six Ways: Monday, 9.30—11.30; Wednesday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 2.30—5.

DENTAL CLINIC :—

Six Ways: Every day from 9.30—5, except Monday and Thursday afternoons.

CHEST CLINIC :—

Council House. New cases seen by appointment on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m.

Cases taken on for observation or treatment attend on Tuesdays or Fridays from 10 to 1, or by appointment on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8.

ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT CLINIC :—

At Chest Clinic, Council House.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30—1.

Tuesday evening from 6—8. Additional sessions as required.

X-RAY EXAMINATIONS :—

By appointment.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME :—

- (a) *General* : The Smethwick District Nursing Association, The Edward Cheshire Nurses' Home, Bearwood Road, Smethwick, has a nurse-matron and two nurses, who undertake general nursing among the poorer inhabitants in the district. A grant of £25 per annum is made to the Association by the Council for emergency nursing of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum when for some reason the nurses of the Health Department cannot attend.
- (b) *Infectious Diseases* : No service is provided, but a panel of handy-women is kept at the Health Office and their services utilised in certain cases.

MIDWIVES :—

Nineteen midwives reside in the Borough, and a total of 35 notified their intention to practice in the area during the year.

In 1921 two midwives were trained and these with a third, already trained, were subsidised by the Council for a period of twelve months. No midwife is at present receiving a subsidy from the Council.

CHEMICAL WORK :—

This work is undertaken by the Public Analyst for the Borough.

Other Institutions available for the District.

GENERAL HOSPITAL, STEELHOUSE LANE, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily from 9—10 a.m.

QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, BATH ROW, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily at 9 a.m.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, LADYWOOD ROAD, BIRMINGHAM :—

For children under 12 years of age. Daily from 1.30—2.30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday excepted.

WOMEN'S HOSPITAL, SPARKHILL, BIRMINGHAM :—

(Out-patients' Department, Upper Priory, Birmingham). Daily
(except Saturday) from 1 to 2 p.m.

EYE HOSPITAL, CHURCH STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily from 8.30—9 a.m.

SKIN AND URINARY HOSPITAL, JOHN BRIGHT STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily from 1.30—3 p.m. (Saturday excepted).

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT HOSPITAL, EDMUND STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily 9—11 a.m.

ORTHOPÆDIC AND SPINAL HOSPITAL, BROAD STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily (except Saturdays) at 2 p.m.

DENTAL HOSPITAL, GREAT CHARLES STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Daily from 9 to 10.15 a.m.

HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL, Easy Row, Birmingham :—

Out-patients' Department open daily 9—10 a.m. (except Wednesday) and every afternoon from 2—3 o'clock.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL, LOVEDAY STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

Out-patients are seen on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9.30 a.m. and Tuesday and Friday afternoons at 2 p.m.

THE BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY has a branch at Cape Hill, Smethwick—surgery hours, 2 to 4 p.m. daily (except Wednesday).

Local Acts, Bye-Laws, etc., relating to Public Health, in force in the County Borough of Smethwick.

LOCAL ACT.

Smethwick Corporation Act, 1901.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Baths and Wash-houses Acts—Adopted 11th Sept., 1885.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890—Adopted 10th Oct., 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—Adopted 14th Nov., 1890.

Private Street Works Act, 1892—Adopted 10th March, 1893.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—the following parts adopted 18th Feb., 1908—Part II., Sections 17 to 33; Part III., Sections 34 to 38, 45 to 47, 49 to 51; Part IV., Sections 52 to 66 and Section 68; Part V., the whole part; Part X., the whole part.

Public Health Act, 1925—the following parts adopted 3rd May, 1926—Part II., Sections 13 to 33, and 35; Parts III., IV., and V., the whole parts.

BYE-LAWS.

Street Cleansing and Nuisances, 1856.

Slaughter-houses, 1893.

Nuisances, 1914.

Good Rule and Government, 1921.

REGULATIONS.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1901.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1926.

31

| CAUSE OF DEATH | Under 1 w'k. | 1-2 w'ks. | 2-3 w'ks. | 3-4 w'ks. | Total under 4 w'ks. | 1-2 m'ths | 2-3 m'ths | 3-4 m'ths | 4-5 m'ths | 5-6 m'ths | 6-7 m'ths | 7-8 m'ths | 8-9 m'ths | 9-10 m'ths | 10-11 m'ths | 11-12 m'ths | Total under 1 year |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Measles ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 |
| Sarcoma of Kidney | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Syphilis ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Convulsions | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 4 |
| Broncho-pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | 12 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 |
| Acute Gastritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Infective Enteritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Diarrhoea | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Gastro-enteritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Pyelonephritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Cong. Malformation of Heart... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Other Cong. Malformations | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Premature Birth | 21 | 6 | 3 | ... | 30 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Diseases of Umbilicus, etc. | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Injuries at Birth | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Strangulation | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Totals | 30 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 46 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 93 |

BIRTHS DURING THE YEAR { Legitimate 1,379.
 { Illegitimate 33.
 Total 1,412.

DEATHS DURING THE YEAR { Legitimate infants 90.
 { Illegitimate infants 3.
 Total 93.

Rate, 65'26.
 Rate, 90'9.
 Rate, 65'86.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1926.

BIRTHS.

Registered: (1) Legitimate, 1,379; (2) Illegitimate, 33; (3) Total, 1,412.

Notified within 36 hours of birth:—

(1) Live Births 1,187; (2) Stillbirths 38; (3) Total 1,225.

(1) By Midwives 1,159; (2) By parents and doctors 66.

In addition to this number particulars of 203 births notified to the Medical Officers of Health of adjoining areas, and relating to Smethwick residents, were transferred to this office.

INFANT DEATHS.

Number: (1) Legitimate, 90; (2) Illegitimate, 3; (3) Total, 93.

Rate per 1,000 births: (1) Legitimate, 65.26; (2) Illegitimate, 90.9; (3) Total, 65.86.

MATERNAL DEATHS:

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—(1) From Sepsis, 1; (2) from other causes, 6.

The maternal death-rate is 4.8 per 1,000 births, compared with 4.8 in 1925, 4.4 in 1924, 6.9 in 1923, 1.7 in 1922, and 4.5 in 1921.

The rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 4.08 per 1,000 births.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Number of cases notified, 11; Genuine cases 8, Non-genuine, 3.

Cases treated by Health Department nurses, 7.

Cases treated at Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, 1.

Cases resulting in impaired vision, None.

Exudate from the eyes examined in three instances; gonococci found in two.

Visits paid to cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum by the nurses during the year numbered 70.

It was not necessary to call in the assistance of the District Nursing Association during the year.

Notifications for past years:—

| 1926 | 1925 | 1924 | 1923 | 1922 | 1921 | 1920 | 1919 | 1918 | 1917 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 11 | 15 | 27 | 31 | 32 | 34 | 61 | 43 | 54 | 49 |

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

The attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic continue to rise in a very satisfactory manner, being double the 1925 figures. Since the Clinic was opened in 1920, the development of this important branch of Public Health work has proceeded apace, as the figures below show, and in 1925 a second session was started. As the figures are still rapidly increasing a third session will shortly have to be undertaken, as it is considered that an average of ten patients per session is as many as can be efficiently dealt with, and this average is now being constantly exceeded. It appears to me that intensive ante-natal work and propaganda provides the greatest weapon for combating the very high maternal mortality in this country. It is a sad fact that the maternal mortality has decreased little or nothing during the past twenty years, in contrast with the rapidly falling infant mortality rate, and that most of these maternal deaths are preventable.

Since the establishment of the Ante-Natal Clinic in 1920, the total attendances have been as follows:—

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1920 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| 1921 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 107 |
| 1922 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 127 |
| 1923 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 241 |
| 1924 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 275 |
| 1925 (2 sessions from July) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 537 |
| 1926 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,015 |

MIDWIVES.

During the year 35 midwives gave notice of their intention to practice in the area; of these 23 were trained and 12 were bona-fide midwives. One midwife gave up practice during the year on account of advancing age.

During the year a total of 932 births were attended solely by midwives, being 76.68 per cent of the births notified.

Each midwife has now an ante-natal register in which she keeps a record of any ante-natal work done by herself. The majority of the midwives are endeavouring to keep this register, but say that they continue to have some difficulty in getting mothers to submit to ante-natal examination. Every midwife is urged to send as many as possible of her cases to the Ante-Natal Clinic, and she receives a written report and advice upon each case from the Medical Officer. If it is found necessary to send a midwife's case to hospital for confinement, the midwife receives a fee of one guinea as compensation for the loss of her case. The number of such fees paid during the year was 3.

The following series of lectures to midwives was given during the year:—

| Lecturer | Subject |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DR. ETHEL CASSIE | "Management of Mother and Child during the First Fourteen Days." |
| DR. J. FURNEAUX JORDAN ... | "Examination of the Patient." |
| DR. HILDA SHUFFLEBOTHAM ... | "Venereal Diseases during Pregnancy." |
| MISS BEUMENT (Inspector of Midwives, Birmingham) ... | "The Responsibilities of the Midwife." |

The lectures were well attended and the midwives manifested great interest in the addresses given.

Medical aid was summoned in 144 cases by midwives, the doctor's fees being paid by the Corporation in 79 cases. The complications for which medical aid was sought were as follows:—

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| MOTHER :— | Torn perineum | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| | Obstructed labour | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| | Prolonged labour | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| | Breech presentation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| | Abnormal presentation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| | Placenta praevia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Adherent placenta | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| | Miscarriage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Abortion | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Inertia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Occipito-posterior | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | Convulsions | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Haemorrhage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| | Vomiting | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Rise of temperature | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| | Contracted pelvis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Other causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| CHILD :— | Feebleness | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| | Impacted head | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | Pemphigus | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| | Discharging eyes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| | Premature birth | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| | Malformations | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| | Jaundice | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Convulsions | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Other causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | Routine visits paid to midwives | ... | ... | ... | ... | 110 |
| | Visits in connection with Puerperal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| | Number of notices received re :— | | | | | |
| | Intention to practice | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35 |
| | Sending for Medical Help | ... | ... | ... | ... | 144 |
| | Attendance at Stillbirths (under C.M.B. Rules) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| | Attendance at Stillbirths (under Notification of Births Acts) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38 |
| | Cessation of Breast feeding | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| | Liability to be a Source of Infection | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | Laying out dead body | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |

HEALTH VISITORS.

In practice the town is divided into seven districts to each of which one Health Visitor is allotted. Her duties include:—

School visiting, attendance at medical inspection and following up certain cases until treatment is completed.

Attendance at the Infant Welfare Centre of her district and the home visiting of children who are attending.

Routine visiting of new births notified.

Routine visiting of children from 1 to 5 years.

Visiting tuberculous patients.

Attendance in rotation at the Cleansing Station.

Attendance at the Ante-Natal Clinic.

Visiting expectant mothers.

Visiting and treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Routine inspection of midwives.

Investigation of applications for grants of milk in necessitous cases.

Visiting in connection with non-notifiable infectious diseases, i.e.,

Measles, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, etc.

Supervision of mental defectives in the area.

The total number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year was 29,565, compared with 26,662 in the previous year, and 24,256 in 1924.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are five Centres in the Borough, three of which are open on two half-days per week, and two on one half-day per week. In addition the Ante-Natal Clinic is open two half-days per week, making a total of 10 sessions weekly. A Lady Medical Officer attends at each session and the health visitor for the district is in charge of the Centre, assisted by a second nurse and voluntary workers.

The average weekly attendance during the year was 469, compared with 509 in the previous year, and 370 in 1924. The names of 1,081 children were added to the rolls during the year, compared with 1,193 in the previous year, and 1,193 in 1924.

The days and times of meeting, and the average attendance at each Centre is set out below:—

| Centre. | Day and Time of Meeting. | Average Attendance | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|
| | | Under 1 year. | 1—5 years. | Total |
| 1. Rawlings Road ... | Monday, 2 p.m. | 40 | 33 | 73 |
| Ditto | Wednesday, 2 p.m. | 33 | 29 | 62 |
| 2. 95, Soho Street ... | Monday, 2 p.m. | 26 | 21 | 47 |
| Ditto | Thursday, 2 p.m. | 35 | 29 | 64 |
| 3. Sydenham Road ... | Wednesday, 2 p.m. | 27 | 26 | 53 |
| Ditto | Friday, 2 p.m. | 24 | 12 | 36 |
| 4. Devonshire Road | Tuesday, 2 p.m. | 40 | 46 | 86 |
| 5. Oldbury Road ... | Friday, 2 p.m. | 27 | 21 | 48 |

The total attendances at the Centres during the year was 22,106, against 20,049 last year.

The mothers bring their babies to the Centres quite regularly on the whole and take a very keen interest in the progress and well-being of their infants, in fact they tend to wish their babies to gain too much weight each week. Dried milk is available at all the Centres at cost price but no mother is allowed to purchase food unless it is prescribed by the doctor and the name, amount and date written on the weight card.

BREAST FEEDING.

Everything is done at the Centres to encourage mothers to breast-feed their infants, but still a fair number of mothers come to the Centres having on their own initiative taken the baby completely off the breast. The superstition that breast milk and cow's milk do not agree with each other is still common amongst the mothers, in other words that a deficiency of breast milk made up by a required quantity of cow's milk, fresh or dried, will upset the baby's digestion. A large amount of educative work is necessary to overcome this belief and short talks are given to the mothers on this and other subjects at the Centres.

The following figures show that there has been an increase in breast-feeding at every Centre since 1920 :—

The proportion of :—

(a) Breast fed children was :—

| | 1920. | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | 1924. | 1925 | 1926. |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Rawlings Road ¹ | 45.1% | 57.4% | 57.0% | 57.7% | 53.7% | 54.1% | 69.0% |
| Devonshire Road ² | 52.8% | 64.2% | 65.7% | 65.5% | 69.8% | 66.9% | 63.4% |
| Sydenham Road ¹ | 60.7% | 53.1% | 72.6% | 68.7% | 77.2% | 77.5% | 69.2% |
| 95, Soho Street | 57.9% | 66.4% | 63.1% | 57.5% | 65.4% | 65.6% | 75.2% |
| Oldbury Road | — | — | — | — | 66.6% | 53.2% | 75.7% |

(b) Artificially fed children :—

| | 1920. | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | 1924. | 1925 | 1926. |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Rawlings Road | 40.2% | 25.9% | 19.0% | 17.3% | 23.3% | 21.2% | 17.4% |
| Devonshire Road ² | 39.4% | 20.8% | 18.3% | 9.2% | 9.3% | 16.9% | 20.0% |
| Sandwell | 21.7% | 29.1% | 12.1% | 8.1% | 8.3% | 9.6% | 8.3% |
| 95, Soho Street | 29.0% | 21.1% | 24.4% | 35.0% | 15.5% | 17.8% | 11.5% |
| Oldbury Road | — | — | — | — | 13.4% | 21.4% | 6.8% |

(c) Complementary and Supplementary feeding (breast, supplemented by artificial feeding):—

| | 1920. | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | 1924. | 1925 | 1926. |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Rawlings Road ¹ | 14.7% | 16.7% | 24.0% | 25.0% | 23.0% | 24.7% | 13.6% |
| Devonshire Road | 7.8% | 15.0% | 16.0% | 25.3% | 20.9% | 16.2% | 16.6% |
| Sydenham Road | 17.6% | 17.8% | 15.3% | 23.2% | 14.5% | 12.9% | 25.5% |
| 95, Soho Street | 13.1% | 12.5% | 12.5% | 7.5% | 19.1% | 16.6% | 13.3% |
| Oldbury Road | — | — | — | — | 20.0% | 25.4% | 17.5% |

Total attendances at the

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Centres | 11,926 | 13,744 | 14,573 | 15,696 | 17,289 | 20,049 | 22,106 |
| Pounds of Dried Milk sold | 22,772 | 14,542 | 9,990 | 12,675 | 13,210 | 9,021 | 6,117 |

SEWING CLASS.

A sewing class is held on Tuesday afternoons at the Health Office, 280, High Street, Smethwick. Patterns of modern baby clothes and clothes for children up to five years of age are shewn at all the Centres. and mothers can be taught to make these clothes at the class.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

Our very best thanks are due to the ladies who assist at the Centres. They attend most regularly and are always ready to give whatever help is required. Their work is of great value to the town.

SUPPLY OF MILK TO EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN. (Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918).

The industrial troubles of the past year resulted in a considerable increase in the number of applications for milk, and the administration of the scheme entailed a great amount of work in the Department during the year. Grants of milk at reduced price are made to :—

- Nursing mothers who are actually suckling their infants;
- Expectant mothers during the last two months of pregnancy;
- Children up to three years of age;
- Exceptionally to children from 3 to 5 years on the certificate of the doctor.

in cases where the family income (after deducting the rent) falls below a certain limit.

The quantity supplied does not ordinarily exceed one pint per eligible person per day, but in exceptional cases of infants from 3 to 18 months, 1½ pints may be supplied on the certificate of the doctor. In certain cases on the recommendation of the Medical Officer at the Infant Welfare Centres, dried milk is supplied in lieu of fresh milk. Orders are granted for 14 days in the first instance, and applications reviewed every two weeks.

Cases receiving assistance during the year : 378.

Total cost : £337 19s. 7d.

Average cost per case : 17s. 10d.

Average duration of case : 11¼ weeks.

Artificial Light Treatment.

During the year 1926, 537 individual cases received treatment at the Light Clinic, as follows :—

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tuberculosis cases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 93 |
| Maternity and Child Welfare cases : | | | | | | |
| (a) Expectant and Nursing Mothers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 75 |
| (b) Babies and Toddlers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 214 |
| Children of school age | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 155 |
| Total | | | | | | 537 |

These patients made a total of 10,763 attendances during the year, viz.,

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Tuberculosis cases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,631 |
| Maternity and Child Welfare cases : | | | | | | |
| (a) Expectant and Nursing Mothers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 566 |
| (b) Babies and Toddlers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,918 |
| Children of school age | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,648 |
| Total | | | | | | 10,763 |

These figures compare with 296 cases, and 5,527 attendances during the year 1925.

The following tables show the conditions for which treatment was given and the results obtained during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS SECTION.

| DISEASE. | Total Cases Treated | Number Discharged | Condition on Discharge | | | Continuing Treatment. |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | | | Very much Improved | Improved | In Status Quo. | |
| Tuberculous Abscess | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Tuberculous Adenitis | 32 | 29 | 14 | 4 | 11 | 3 |
| Lupus | 19 | 15 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Abdominal Tuberculosis | 11 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Tuberculosis of the Eye | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Bazin's Disease | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Tuberculosis of Larynx | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 10 | 7 | ... | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Hilus Tubercle | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... |
| Scrofuloderma | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... |
| Total | 93 | 76 | 30 | 21 | 25 | 17 |

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SECTION.

| DISEASE. | Total Cases Treated | Number Discharged | Condition on Discharge | | | Continuing Treatment. |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | | | Very much Improved | Im- proved | In Statu Quo | |
| EXPECTANT & NURSING MOTHERS: | | | | | | |
| Anæmia | 13 | 13 | 1 | 8 | 4 | ... |
| Debility | 34 | 34 | 3 | 18 | 13 | ... |
| Insomnia | 12 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | ... |
| Mastitis | 3 | 3 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Difficulty in breast-feeding ... | 13 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 75 | 72 | 12 | 36 | 24 | 3 |
| BABIES AND TODDLERS: | | | | | | |
| Rickets | 49 | 49 | 15 | 22 | 12 | ... |
| Marasmus | 5 | 5 | ... | 2 | 3 | ... |
| Not Thriving | 42 | 42 | 7 | 22 | 13 | ... |
| Delayed Dentition | 25 | 23 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 |
| Debility | 29 | 27 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 2 |
| Spasmophilia | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Bronchitis | 18 | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 38 | 34 | 24 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Skin Diseases | 6 | 6 | 5 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Total | 214 | 206 | 69 | 79 | 58 | 8 |

SCHOOL MEDICAL SECTION.

| DISEASE. | Total Cases Treated | Number Discharged | Condition on Discharge | | | Continuing Treatment. |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------|---------------|-----------------------|
| | | | Very much Improved | Improved | In Status Quo | |
| Chorea | 20 | 17 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Rheumatism | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 16 | 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| Asthma | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 8 | 8 | 8 | ... | ... | ... |
| Anæmia | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Debility | 58 | 52 | 31 | 20 | 1 | 6 |
| Adenitis | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Abscess | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Alopecia | 18 | 16 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| Eczema | 8 | 8 | 7 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Impetigo | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Septic Sores | 5 | 5 | 5 | ... | ... | ... |
| Warts | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Seborrhoea | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Psoriasis | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Ringworm of Scalp | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Chilblains | 3 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Enuresis | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total | 155 | 140 | 85 | 42 | 13 | 15 |

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Administration.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

The number of boats inspected was 24, as against 64 in the previous year. Commenting upon the condition of the boats and occupants, I have to report that in this particular 2 were found to contravene the Acts and Regulations, viz. :—

Marking 2

Notices were served in respect of these infringements and all the requirements were complied with. No case of infectious disease occurred, and it was not found necessary to detain any boat for cleansing.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The visits paid to Factories and Workshops and workplaces numbered 134. No notices were received from H. M. Inspector of Factories.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR
INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

| Premises. (1) | Number of | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| | Inspections. (2) | Written Notices. (3) | Prosecutions (4) |
| FACTORIES (Including Factories Laundries) | 30 | — | — |
| WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries) | 102 | 1 | — |
| WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises) | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 132 | 1 | — |

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

| Particulars. (1) | Number of Defects. | | | Number of Prosecutions (5) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| | Found. (2) | Remedied (3) | Referred to H.M. Inspector (4) | |
| <i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i> | | | | |
| Want of cleanliness | — | — | — | — |
| Want of ventilation | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Overcrowding | — | — | — | — |
| Want of drainage of floors | — | — | — | — |
| Other nuisances | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Sanitary accommodation { | insufficient | — | — | — |
| | unsuitable or defective | — | — | — |
| | not separate for sexes | — | — | — |
| | | — | — | — |
| <i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i> | | | | |
| Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences | — | — | — | — |
| (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.) | | | | |
| TOTAL | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The town continues to be supplied with water by the South Staffordshire Water Works Company, the supply being from deep boreholes through red sandstone. Samples have been submitted to the Public Analyst from time to time and from different parts of the town during the year. The analyses show the water is excellent in quality and a very satisfactory drinking water.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The several brook courses within the Borough boundary have received regular attention and no cases of serious pollution or obstruction have been met with. Further letters drawing attention to the provisions of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act have been sent to the occupiers of premises adjoining certain brook courses and these have had a good effect. The unculverted portions of the brooks have been regularly cleaned out by the Borough Surveyor's staff.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Improvements have been carried out in connection with the ventilating system of certain sewers in the Sandwell Ward. The work, which was carried out under the direction of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, consisted of the erection of four six-inch steel ventilating columns, these being connected to the summits of several sewers by means of six-inch stoneware pipes. Each ventilating column is provided with a cast iron base, rust chamber and a copper wire cage at top. The object of the columns is to provide outlet shafts for foul air and they are each of a sufficient height to carry this well above the neighbouring buildings.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of about a dozen houses and one or two works situated between the two canals, where the construction of a sewer is not possible, the closet accommodation of the town is on the water carriage system. Of the total closets about 440 are waste water closets and the rest fresh water closets. The conversion of the closets from the conservancy to the water carriage system was completed in the year 1914.

SCAVENGING.

A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by the Public Works Committee under the direction of the Borough Surveyor, and the refuse is disposed of by burning at the Borough Destructor. During the period under review further efforts have been made to secure the substitution of galvanised iron bins, with covers, for existing ashpits, and 808 bins were provided either in substitution of ashpits or in replacement of defective ashbins.

REGISTER OF COMPLAINTS.

One of the sources of information as to isolated defective conditions and other sanitary matters in connection with property continues to be furnished by the Complaint Book, in which is entered details of all complaints received. These numbered 570, as compared with 488 for the previous year. Of this number, 11 instances of defective water fittings were reported to the S.S. Water Works Co., and in 20 instances matters relative to sewers and street gullies were referred to the Borough Surveyor's Department.

In addition to those registered in the Complaint Book a further 971 complaints were received from various sources, most of these being made verbally to the Inspectors whilst out on the district. The total number of dwelling houses visited on complaint was 1,541. Inspections revealed the following defects which were dealt with at once by the service of a preliminary notice on the owner or occupier:—

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Dirty Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | 227 |
| Roofs and Eaves Gutters Defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 380 |
| Yard and W.C. Drains blocked | ... | ... | ... | ... | 216 |
| Yard Surfaces defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 62 |
| Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| Accumulations of Offensive Matter | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| Floors, Walls, etc., defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 357 |
| W.C's. without proper flushing arrangements | ... | ... | ... | ... | 113 |
| Ashbins or Ashplaces defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Water Closets defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 99 |
| Waste Water Closets defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 107 |
| Overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Animals kept so as to be a nuisance | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Water Fittings defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Breach of Bye-laws | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Dampness | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| Insufficient Water Supply | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Dangerous Buildings | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Insufficient Drainage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Defective Drainage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| Defective Rainwater Cisterns | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Defective Washboilers and Furnaces | ... | ... | ... | ... | 54 |
| Brook Courses Blocked | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

1,940

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

The following table is a summary of the inspections made for various purposes and to different types of premises during the year, together with the number of defects recorded in each case.

| | Visits Paid. | Defects Found. |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Housing Act, 1925 | 405 | 3,102 |
| Re-visits—Housing Act, 1925 ... | 1,421 | — |
| On Complaint | 1,541 | 1,940 |
| Miscellaneous | 337 | 1 |
| Infectious Diseases | 194 | 42 |
| Slaughterhouses | 641 | — |
| Private Slaughtering | 296 | — |
| Meat and Food Shops | 274 | — |
| Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops | 586 | — |
| Pig-sties | 8 | 1 |
| Factories | 30 | — |
| Workshops | 63 | 1 |
| Bakehouses | 39 | — |
| Food Poisoning | 26 | — |
| Canal Boats | 24 | 2 |
| Markets | 122 | — |
| Schools | 4 | — |
| Picture Houses, etc. | 2 | — |
| Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs | | |
| Act | 10 | — |
| Rats and Mice Destruction Act | 4 | — |
| Water Samples | 11 | — |
| Drains Tested | 5 | 1 |
| Waste Water Closets | 252 | 4 |
| Smoke Observations | 13 | 2 |
| Visits to Works in Progress ... | 501 | — |
| Re-Inspections re Notices Served | | |
| (Public Health Acts) ... | 2,439 | — |
| Visits re Refuse Accommodation | 1,294 | 738 |
| Re-visits re Refuse Accommodation | 1,160 | — |
| Brook Courses | 2 | 2 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 11,704 | 5,836 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Dirty premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | 615 |
| Roofs, Spouting and Eaves Gutters | ... | ... | ... | ... | 733 |
| Yard and W.C. Drains blocked | ... | ... | ... | ... | 221 |
| Yard Surfaces | ... | ... | ... | ... | 264 |
| Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 116 |
| Accumulations of Offensive Matter | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47 |
| Floors, Walls, Etc., defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 947 |
| W.C's. without proper Flushing Arrangements | ... | ... | ... | ... | 136 |
| Ashbins and Ashplaces defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 836 |
| Water Closets defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 227 |
| Waste Water Closets defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 477 |
| Overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32 |
| Animals kept so as to be a nuisance | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Water Fittings defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Smoke Nuisances | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Breach of Byelaws | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Contravention of Canal Boats Acts and Regulations | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Houses without Sinks | ... | ... | ... | ... | 92 |
| Insufficient Water Supply | ... | ... | ... | ... | 130 |
| Dampness | ... | ... | ... | ... | 132 |
| Dangerous Buildings | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| Insufficient Drainage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Insufficient W.C. Accommodation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Defective Drainage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 53 |
| Rainwater Cisterns defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Washboilers defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 135 |
| Firegrates | ... | ... | ... | ... | 99 |
| Staircases and Handrails | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| Doors, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 122 |
| Brook Courses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Verminous Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | 254 |
| | | | | | <hr/> 5,836 <hr/> |

LETTERS AND NOTICES SENT OUT.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Letters | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,956 |
| Preliminary Notices | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,364 |
| Secondary Notices | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 130 |
| Statutory Notices under Public Health Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 210 |
| Statutory Notices under Sec. 36, Public Health Act, 1875, re Ashes Accommodation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 789 |
| Sec. 3, Housing Act, 1925 Notices | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 241 |
| Cleansing Notices re Infectious Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| Canal Boats Acts Notices | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Circulars | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 429 |
| | | | | | | <hr/> 5,179 <hr/> |

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

From time to time observations are taken of the various factory chimneys within the Borough and in cases of serious emissions of dense black smoke the manufacturer is warned by notice or letter, usually with satisfactory results. Thirteen half-hourly observations were made during the year and two black smoke nuisances recorded.

During the year monthly analyses have been made of the soot deposit in three districts of the town of varying character, these districts are as follows:—(1) An open area in a central park. (2) A residential area. (3) An industrial area. The following is a summary of the deposits recorded in the three districts in the number of tons per square mile:—

| | District 1. | District 2. | District 3. | Average |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| January | 25.30 | 37.57 | 84.58 | 49.15 |
| February | 20.70 | * | 76.42 | 48.56 |
| March | 26.76 | 43.49 | 72.96 | 47.74 |
| April | 34.10 | * | 91.27 | 62.68 |
| May | 27.03 | 45.50 | 96.07 | 56.20 |
| June | 10.16 | 44.70 | 53.11 | 36.02 |
| July | 22.72 | 50.09 | 61.24 | 44.68 |
| August | 19.52 | 43.34 | 53.86 | 38.91 |
| September | 19.76 | 40.31 | 38.92 | 32.99 |
| October | 46.17 | 48.20 | 97.85 | 64.07 |
| November | 36.15 | 53.34 | 66.34 | 51.94 |
| December | 33.39 | 35.25 | 40.86 | 36.50 |

*Gauge out of order.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under | |
| (b) | 233 |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts ... | |
| (i) By the Local Authority | 182 |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons | 51 |

1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... | 3,434 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 405 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 405 |

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 666 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 224 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | 66 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 24 |

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | | Nil |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | 1,057 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... .. | 939 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | 20 |

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of a Closing Order | ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... .. | 1 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | ... .. | 1 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition Orders | ... .. | Nil |

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The number of dairymen on the register at the end of the year was 357, as compared with 405 in the previous year. Additional dairymen registered during the year numbered 16.

The number of cowsheds is seven.

During the year 286 visits have been paid to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops. The premises have been found to be kept on the whole in a clean and satisfactory condition. It has not been necessary to take official action against any dairyman. In the rare cases where the conditions have not been satisfactory the milk purveyor has been advised to discontinue the sale of milk and in every case has acceded to this suggestion. The registers of dairies and milkshops have been revised in conformity with the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.

There is one depot in the town where pasteurising and bottling of milk is carried out under license. Monthly samples are submitted to the University Public Health Laboratory for examination for bacterial count. These samples are taken from the bulk milk before pasteurisation, from the cooler after pasteurisation, and from the final capsuled bottle. During the year 34 such samples were submitted and the results have continued to demonstrate the efficiency of the process.

(b) MEAT, etc,

The slaughterhouses, meat shops and markets have been regularly visited throughout the year. The number of slaughterhouses on the register remains the same as last year, viz., 14, of which 9 are licensed and 5 registered. The visits paid to slaughterhouses numbered 641 and to meat and food shops and market stalls 396. In addition to these, 296 visits were made in connection with the slaughter of pigs on private premises under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The following is a summary of the number of animals and carcasses examined during the year:—

| | | | Before | During | After | |
|--------|-----|-----|------------|------------|------------|-------|
| | | | Slaughter. | Slaughter. | Slaughter. | Total |
| Oxen | ... | ... | 12 | 3 | 409 | 424 |
| Cows | ... | ... | — | — | 26 | 26 |
| Calves | ... | ... | — | 1 | 18 | 19 |
| Sheep | ... | ... | 89 | 6 | 912 | 1,007 |
| Pigs | ... | ... | 8 | 6 | 814 | 828 |
| | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | | 109 | 16 | 2,179 | 2,304 |
| | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

The following is a list of animals and articles of food which were found to be diseased or unsound and were either seized or surrendered and destroyed:—

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----------|
| Twelve Ox Livers—Distoma Hepatica | ... | ... | 152 lbs. |
| Two Ox Livers—Abscesses | ... | ... | 29 " |
| One Ox Liver—Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 15 " |
| One Ox Liver—Abscesses and Distoma Hepatica | ... | ... | 14 " |
| One Ox Stomach, Lungs Liver and Diaphragm— Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 45 " |
| One Ox Lungs—Inflammation | ... | ... | 7 " |
| One Ox Mudgeon—Edema | ... | ... | 10 " |
| One Ox Lungs—Emphysema | ... | ... | 9 " |
| One Ox Lungs—Pleuro—Pneumonia | ... | ... | 7 " |
| Two Ox Lungs and Liver—Echinococcus Veterinorum | ... | ... | 41 " |
| Two Ox Lungs and Livers—Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 37 " |
| One Ox Lungs—Melanosis | ... | ... | 8 " |
| Beef—Damaged by fire | ... | ... | 153 " |
| One Hind Quarter of Beef—Bruises from Injury | ... | ... | 94 " |
| One Forequarter of Beef—Tubercular Pleurisy | ... | ... | 108 " |
| Beef—Decomposition | ... | ... | 40 " |
| Three Pieces of Beef—Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 18 " |
| One Sheep's Lungs and Liver | ... | ... | 5 " |
| One Sheep's carcase—Tumours | ... | ... | 36 " |
| Three Sheeps' Lungs—Strongylus Rufescens | ... | ... | 6½ " |
| Six Sheeps' Livers—Strongylus Rufescens | ... | ... | 9 " |
| Four Sheeps' Lungs and Livers — Strongylus Rufescens | ... | ... | 13 " |
| Two Sheeps' Livers—Distoma Hepatica | ... | ... | 7 " |
| Lamb—Damaged by fire | ... | ... | 144 " |
| One Pig and Organs—Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 134 " |
| Two Pigs' Heads and Organs—Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 90 " |
| Six Pigs' Intestines—Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 99 " |
| Two Pigs' Heads and One Fry—Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 33 " |
| Two Pigs' Heads and Intestines—Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 78 " |
| One Pigs' Stomach and Intestines—Inflammation | ... | ... | 30 " |
| Six Pigs' Livers—Cloudy Swelling | ... | ... | 32 " |
| One Pigs' Intestines—Inflammation | ... | ... | 3 " |
| One Pigs' Head—Abscesses | ... | ... | 10 " |
| Two Rabbits—Decomposition | ... | ... | 3½ " |
| Eleven Whole Rabbits and Certain Cut Portions— Decomposition | ... | ... | 25 " |
| Hake—Decomposition | ... | ... | 84 " |
| Two Pigs' Heads—Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 35 " |

1,664½ lbs.

SEIZURES UNDER SECTIONS 116 and 117 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

UN SOUND RABBITS.

On October 4th the occupier of a stall on the Windmill Lane Market was fined £5 0s. 0d. and £1 1s. 0d. costs for exposing for sale a number

of rabbits which were in a decomposed condition and unfit for food. The rabbits had been seized by the Inspector on Saturday evening, September 11th.

TUBERCULAR MEAT.

Two seizures of tubercular meat were made from stalls on the Windmill Lane Market. In each case it transpired that the meat had already been examined and passed as sound by Inspectors of adjoining districts. Letters of warning were sent in each case to the stall-holders concerned but no proceedings were instituted.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

245 samples were purchased under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts and submitted to the Public Analyst, as against 247 samples in the previous year. 28 samples of milk were certified as not genuine, as against 37 in the previous year. 5 samples of apples were shown to be contaminated with traces of arsenic but no proceedings were taken in respect of any of these as the adulteration was slight, and the vendors in each case undertook to wash and brush the whole consignment of apples before offering any for sale. The other articles were certified as genuine. The percentage of adulterations was 13.47 per cent as against 15.0 per cent in the previous year. Legal proceedings were instituted in six cases, and the vendors cautioned in the remaining cases. The total fines and costs amounted to £36 12s. 0d. 36 of the 187 samples of milk taken were procured in course of delivery at the railway stations.

The following is a summary of the articles sampled and the results of the analyses :—

| Article Analysed | Total Samples. | Genuine. | Not Genuine. |
|------------------------|----------------|----------|--------------|
| Milk | 186 | 158 | 28 |
| Sterilised Milk | 6 | 6 | — |
| Preserved Cream | 1 | 1 | — |
| Butter | 4 | 4 | — |
| Margarine | 5 | 5 | — |
| Flour | 1 | 1 | — |
| Coffee | 3 | 3 | — |
| Tea | 2 | 2 | — |
| Cocoa | 2 | 2 | — |
| Raspberry Jam | 2 | 2 | — |
| Apples | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| Honey | 1 | 1 | — |
| Pepper | 2 | 2 | — |
| Mustard | 1 | 1 | — |
| Sugar | 2 | 2 | — |
| Loaf Sugar | 1 | 1 | — |
| Moist Sugar | 1 | 1 | — |
| Ginger | 1 | 1 | — |
| Salt | 1 | 1 | — |
| Lard | 2 | 2 | — |
| Custard Powder | 1 | 1 | — |
| Egg Powder | 1 | 1 | — |
| Polony | 1 | 1 | — |
| Tapioco | 2 | 2 | — |

| Article Analysed | Total Samples. | Genuine. | Not Genuine. |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Rice | 2 | 2 | — |
| Sago | 2 | 2 | — |
| Malt Vinegar | 1 | 1 | — |
| Lemon Cheese | 1 | 1 | — |
| Sponge Cake | 2 | 2 | — |
| Fancy Bread | 1 | 1 | — |
| | <hr/> 245 <hr/> | <hr/> 212 <hr/> | <hr/> 33 <hr/> |

TABLE OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, FOR THE YEAR 1926.

| Date of Purchase. | Sample No. | Deficiency. | Results. | Penalty. £ s. d. | Costs s. d. |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 21.2.26 | 4375 | 10.0 per cent. Fat and 22.35 „ Solids-not-Fat. | Convicted | 10 0 0 | 15 0 |
| 24.2.26 | 4380 | 10.0 „ Fat. | Convicted | 5 0 0 | 15 0 |
| 21.3.26 | 4394 | 10.0 „ Fat. | Convicted | 2 0 0 | 15 0 |
| 29.6.26 | 4461 | 26.67 „ Fat. | Convicted | 2 0 0 | 15 0 |
| 18.7.26 | 4477 | 3.33 „ Fat and 22.35 „ Solids-not-Fat. | Convicted | 1 0 0 | 15 0 |
| *29.7.26 | 38 $\frac{c}{x}$ | 9.41 „ Solids-not-Fat. | Convicted | 10 0 0 | 2 17 0 |
| | | | | <hr/> £30 0 0 <hr/> | <hr/> £6 12 0 <hr/> |

*This sample was procured in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915. The milk was procured at a farm in the Rowley Regis district by an Inspector of the County of Stafford and was analysed by the Public Analyst of Smethwick. This farmer had been selling the total yield of milk from a herd of twelve cows to a local milk purveyor for some considerable period. As the milk purveyor's business increased the farmer had been able to supply the extra milk demand although he had not added to the number of his cows. The Magistrates took a serious view of the case and the defendant was fined £10 0s. 0d. and £2 17s. 0d. special costs.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1906.

Fifteen samples were purchased under the above Act and submitted for analysis to the Borough Agricultural Analyst, all being certified genuine.

The following is a table of the articles purchased:—

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Fertilisers | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Barley Meal | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Sussex Ground Oats | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Indian Meal | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Pea Meal | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

Total 15

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS,
1912 and 1917.

REPORT for the year ended 31st December, 1926.

1. MILK AND CREAM NOT SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.

| | Milk. | Cream. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Number of samples examined for the presence of a Preservative | 192 | — |
| Number in which a Preservative was reported to be present and the percentage of Preservative found in each sample ... | Nil | — |

2. CREAM SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives was correct:—

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Correct statements made | 1 |
| (2) Incorrect statements | — |
| | — |
| | 1 |
| | — |

(3) Percentage of Preservatives found in each sample:—

Sample No. 4540—0.34% Boric Acid.

(b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream:—

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| (i) Above 35 per cent | 1 |
| (ii) Below 35 per cent | — |
| | — |
| | 1 |
| | — |

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements with regard to labelling and declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) in the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed Nil

(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken Nil

3. THICKENING SUBSTANCES.

Any evidence of their addition to cream or preserved cream Nil

